



# Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One

## Commissioners' Meeting January 9, 2018

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present were: Commissioners Nelson, Sutich, Duncan, Smith and Entze, Chief Burgess, A/Chief Watson, A/Chief Nixon, A/C Bjurstrom, D/C Waters, D/C Lyon, B/C Kauppila, B/C Meyer, D. Weyn, T. VanderVaate and citizen K. Kreitzer.

**Flag Salute** was led by Chairman Nelson.

**Moment of Silence.** A moment of silence in remembrance of Pierce County Sheriff Deputy Daniel McCartney killed in the line of duty on January 8, 2018.

**Oath of Office.** Chief Burgess administered the Oath of Office to Zachary Smith who was elected by the voters in the November 2017 General Election to serve as Fire Commissioner.

**Approval of the Agenda.** Commissioners Sutich and Entze moved and seconded approval of the agenda. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

**Commissioner Absence.** Commissioner Nelson announced he will be absent from the February 13, 2018 meeting. Commissioners Sutich and Smith moved and seconded approval of the absence. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

### **Communications.**

EA T. VanderVaate advised the Commissioners copies of thank you letters from California are included in Board packets.

Commissioner Sutich reported on the Trust's health benefits fair and extended his appreciation to Joel Schwarz and others who helped organize the event saying it was a job well done.

### **Minutes and Blanket Vouchers**

Commissioners Smith and Sutich moved and seconded approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2017 Commissioner Meeting as mailed. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Commissioners Smith and Entze moved and seconded a motion to retroactively approve Blanket Vouchers 171798-171885 in the amount of \$7,241.85 and Payroll Vouchers 171886-171889 in

the amount of \$6,085.12 for a total consideration of \$13,326.97. These vouchers were previously approved by Chief Burgess and transmitted to the County on December 19, 2017. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Commissioners Nelson and Sutich moved and seconded a motion to approve Blanket Vouchers 180023-180112 in the amount of \$171,897.50 and Payroll Vouchers 180000-180022 in the amount of \$1,292,894.11 for a total consideration of \$1,464,791.61. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

### **Chief's Report**

- A/Chief Nixon gave the Board a report regarding call volumes for 2017. There was an 11% increase over 2016 with a total of 6164 calls, the highest number of calls in any 12 month period. A brief discussion ensued regarding growth in community and increases in call volume. A/C Nixon indicated we do not track population data so it is a challenge statistically to tie growth of call volume to growth in the community. Our over 55 population is the highest in Pierce County which will likely influence call volume.
- A/Chief Nixon gave a brief report regarding the Amtrak derailment in DuPont, WA on December 18, 2017 which had three fatalities. The area is unique geographically and a majority of the incident was handled by JBLM and Thurston County responders. D/C Waters, as well as LT P. Stark and LT J. Johnson were involved in responding. D/C Waters reported that 95 patients were moved to eight area hospitals in under an hour. He felt the incident command was unified between the agencies responding and they did a great job working side by side with each other. PCSORT was not called to assist.
- Chief Burgess shared the Strategic Study of 911 Dispatch Operations and Radio Communications Operations dated January 4, 2018. The study was conducted by DELTAWRX and was commissioned by both CCN and the Pierce County Executive to provide direction on how to move forward. General discussion regarding the report followed. Chief Burgess indicated he is encouraged by the results and at the request of Commissioner Smith an electronic copy will be sent to the Board members for further review (hard copies are in the board packets).

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Commissioner Entze advised the Board that labor negotiations are ongoing with its next meeting scheduled for January 11, 2018.

### **Old Business**

- The Commissioners discussed 2018 committee assignments and decided as follows:
  - Risk Management and Insurance: Zach Smith and Tom Sutich
  - Budget, Finance and Audit: Tom Sutich and Scott Duncan
  - Policy and Procedure: Scott Duncan and Kevin Entze
  - Fleet and Facilities: Zach Smith and Bryce Nelson
  - Labor Management: Kevin Entze and Bryce Nelson

- A/C Bjurstrom advised the Board of his intent to present the Board with a resolution adopting a revised private bridges and roads policy at the January 23, 2018 meeting, no additional changes have been made to the policy since it was presented at the December 12, 2017 meeting. A/Chief Waters provided information to the Board in response to questions they asked at the December 12, 2017 meeting as follows:
  - The Board asked how many times we have used private structures in response to calls. A/Chief Waters reached out to the B/Cs and they did not have specific recollection of incidents which indicates we do not encounter them often.
  - The Board asked for examples of bridge collapses. Information is in the Board packets showing the examples D/C Waters was able to obtain since the last meeting. None of the examples are local, and we hope by being proactive in requiring bridge inspections and weight limit signage to avoid incidents of collapse and damage to structures or District assets.
  - The Board asked what the financial impact is to property owners. D/C Waters reported that he reached out to four engineering firms, only one of which responded. That firm indicated they charge \$140 per hour with a \$600 minimum. That firm also indicated based on the size and scope of previous inspections, the estimated cost will fall \$1,000-\$2,000 based on size of the structure.
  - D/C Waters provided the Board with a spreadsheet showing 64 parcels served by private bridges in our district. Of those, 35 parcels have changed ownership in the last five years. D/C Waters indicated he will work closely with those property owners to assist them through this process.

Discussion followed with Commissioners asking various additional questions regarding notification, cost to the taxpayers and concerns regarding good and clear communication with property owners as well as possibly reporting to title companies. D/C Waters indicated he contacts the registered tax payer for each parcel and explains everything in great detail because he feels they have the right to know what services the District may or may not be able to provide should the taxpayer or HOA choose not to have their structure inspected and/or post weight limit signage. Commissioner Nelson stressed the need for transparency as we move through this process. The Board requested that the draft policy and proposed draft resolution be posted to the District's website in advance of the January 23, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Burgess indicated the District will get them posted. In addition, Chief Burgess committed to having A/C Bjurstrom and D/C Waters research in advance of the January 23, 2018 meeting, the following:

- Does anyone else report to title companies?
- Do we think it's a good idea to provide information to title companies?
- What do other fire districts in our State do regarding private bridges?
- What other public agencies have a need to cross these bridges who might also have concerns based on GVW of their vehicles.

## **New Business**

- A/C Watson presented the board with copies of the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) Final Fire Protection Classification Ratings indicating the project was started in 2017 and we just received the final reports. The District has been rated a 4 in the City and a 5 outside the City (County) and indicated 56% of our destiny is in our hands, the rest is out of our control mostly due to water/fireflow infrastructure issues. A/C Watson addressed specific items of interest in the report. He indicated for strategic planning purposes it would be helpful if we knew the scoring criteria so we could work toward getting to the next level/obtaining a higher rating.

**Public Comment**

Citizen K. Kreitzer suggested the District invite someone from WSRB to make a presentation to the Board regarding their findings. Chief Burgess indicated we will make the request and see what response we get.

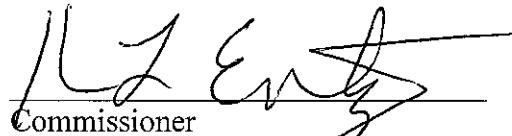
**Good of the Order**

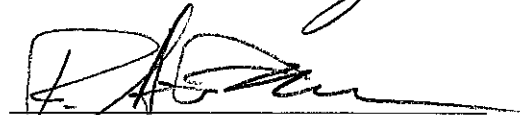
**Special Interests/Upcoming Events**


There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m. No further business was introduced and the motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday January 23, at 5:00 p.m.

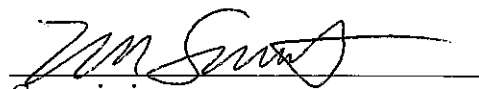
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: District Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner